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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(release on receipt)

SUBJECT: Varieties Make a Difference. Information from the garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Variety may be only so much spice in life....but in the garden it's somewhat more important. Your garden can be excellent...or it can be puny...according to the varieties of vegetables you plant.

The gardening specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture tell us there's more difference between varieties than just the looks of a plant. Some plant varieties are developed to withstand certain diseases...some to withstand weather conditions...some grow better early in the season...some later. That's why the smart gardener finds out about the different varieties of vegetables and chooses the kinds she plants carefully.

Of course, new varieties are being developed all the time. And for that...we thank both commercial seedsmen and plant breeders of public research agencies. It's good to know about these new varieties and to look for them if they furnish the qualities you want. Take tomatoes...for example. The Pan-America is a new variety of tomato that's much like the Marglobe. Only it's practically immune to fusarium wilt..and promises even greater things in badly wilt-infested soils. Then there's the Fordhook 242...a lima bean that's tops as a producer in the middle part of the country. We want to keep up with these new varieties and find out what qualities they have to make them outstanding. But if you can't get them, there are plenty of older, well-established kinds of seed that you can stick to and expect a high degree of garden success.

How can a person find out about the varieties? Well...one way is to ask your seed dealer. Another is to get in touch with your county agricultural agent. or your local victory garden leader can tell you. If you aren't near any of these people...you can write the state agricultural college. They'll be glad to give the information you need.

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